

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A communications method, comprising the steps of:
2 detecting a first telephone call to a first telephone number;
3 answering the first telephone call;
4 determining if the answered first telephone call is a fax or voice
5 telephone call;
6 if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone call,
7 forwarding the first telephone call using a second telephone number; and
8 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,
9 forwarding the first telephone call using a third telephone number, the third telephone
10 number being different from said second telephone number.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 receiving a facsimile message transmitted via the first telephone call;
3 storing the received facsimile message as an electronic file; and
4 E-mailing the electronic file to a call forwarding service subscriber.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the first~~
2 ~~telephone call is a fax or voice telephone call includes:~~
3 A communications method, comprising the steps of:
4 detecting a first telephone call to a first telephone number;
5 determining if the first telephone call is a fax or voice telephone call
6 by:
7 answering the first telephone call; and
8 monitoring the answered call for a tone indicative of a fax
9 communication;
10 if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone call,
11 forwarding the first telephone call using a second telephone number; and

12 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,
13 forwarding the first telephone call using a third telephone number, the third telephone
14 number being different from said second telephone number.
15

1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 retrieving from stored call forwarding service subscriber information
3 at least one of a stored voice call forwarding telephone number and a stored fax
4 forwarding telephone number, the stored voice call forwarding telephone number
5 being used as said second telephone number, the stored fax forwarding telephone
6 number being used as said third telephone number.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said step of forwarding the first
2 telephone call using a second telephone number includes:
3 placing a telephone call to said second telephone number; and
4 bridging the first telephone call and the telephone call to the second
5 telephone number.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5,
2 wherein detecting a first telephone call includes setting a terminating
3 attempt trigger at a telephone switch on a telephone line corresponding to the first
4 telephone number; and
5 wherein placing a telephone call to said second telephone number and
6 bridging the first telephone call and the telephone call to the second telephone
7 number are performed by a peripheral device coupled to said telephone switch.

1 Claim 7 (original): The communications method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 retrieving from stored call forwarding service subscriber information
3 at least one of a stored voice call forwarding telephone number and a stored fax

4 forwarding telephone number, the stored voice call forwarding telephone number
5 being used as said second telephone number when retrieved, the stored fax
6 forwarding telephone number being used as said third telephone number when
7 retrieved; and

8 retrieving from said stored call forwarding service subscriber
9 information an E-mail address to be used when forwarding a fax by E-mail.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): A communications method for use in a telephone
2 network including a telephone switch, service control point, and telephone switch
3 peripheral device, comprising the steps of:

4 setting a terminating attempt trigger at a telephone switch on a
5 telephone line corresponding to a first telephone number;

6 in response to activation of said terminating attempt trigger by a first
7 telephone call, operating the telephone switch to contact a service control point for
8 call processing instructions;

9 operating said service control point to instruct the telephone switch to
10 connect the first telephone call to the telephone switch peripheral device;

11 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to answer the first
12 telephone call and to then determine if the first telephone call is a fax or voice
13 telephone call;

14 if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone call,

15 i. operating the telephone switch peripheral device to
16 retrieve a voice telephone call forwarding telephone number
17 from a set of stored subscriber information including a voice
18 telephone call forwarding telephone number and a fax
19 telephone call forwarding telephone number; and

20 ii. forwarding the first telephone call using the retrieved
21 voice telephone call forwarding telephone number; and

22 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,

- 23 i. operating the telephone switch peripheral device to
24 retrieve the fax telephone call forwarding telephone number
25 from the set of stored subscriber information; and
26 ii. forwarding the first telephone call using the retrieved
27 fax telephone call forwarding telephone number.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein forwarding the first telephone
2 call using the retrieved voice telephone call forwarding telephone number includes
3 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to:
4 place a call to said call forwarding telephone number; and
5 bridge the first telephone call and the cal to said call forwarding
6 telephone number.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein forwarding the first telephone
2 call using the retrieved fax telephone call forwarding telephone number includes
3 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to:
4 place a call to said fax telephone call forwarding telephone number;
5 and
6 bridge the first telephone call and the call to said fax telephone call
7 forwarding telephone number.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 8, further comprising, prior to operating
2 the telephone switch peripheral device to determine if the first telephone call is a fax
3 or voice telephone call:
4 storing said set of subscriber information including a voice telephone
5 call forwarding telephone number and a fax telephone call forwarding telephone
6 number in said telephone switch peripheral device.

1 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising, storing in said set
2 of subscriber information an E-mail address to be used for forwarding a fax by E-
3 mail, the method further comprising:

4 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to receive a fax
5 message transmitted by said first telephone call; and

6 forwarding the fax message in an E-mail addressed using the E-mail
7 address stored in said set of subscriber information.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the step of
2 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to receive the fax message includes
3 the step of:

4 monitoring the forwarded bridged call, between the first telephone call
5 and the call to said fax telephone call forwarding telephone number, for fax data
6 corresponding to the fax message.

1 Claims 14-18 (canceled)

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): A communications method, the method comprising
2 the steps of:

3 operating a telephone switch to detect a call to a telephone number;
4 connecting the telephone call to a peripheral device coupled to the
5 telephone switch;

6 operating said peripheral device to:

7 i. answer said call;

8 ii. determine if the answered call is a fax telephone call or a
9 non-fax call;

10 iii. if it is determined that the answered telephone call is a fax
11 telephone call, receive a facsimile message via the answered
12 call; and

- 13 iv. send an E-mail message including said received facsimile
14 message to a call forwarding service subscriber; and
15 v. if it is determined that the answered call is a non-fax call,
16 forward the call to another telephone number.

1 Claim 20 (original): The communications method of claim 19, further comprising the
2 step of:

- 3 using the called telephone number to access a call forwarding service
4 subscriber record; and
5 retrieving from the call forwarding service subscriber record an E-mail
6 address to be used for forwarding a fax message.

1 Claim 21 (original): The communications method of claim 20, wherein the step of
2 operating a telephone switch to detect a call to a telephone number includes:
3 setting a terminating attempt trigger on a telephone line corresponding
4 to said telephone number.

1 Claim 22 (original): The communications method of claim 21, further comprising the
2 step of:

- 3 contacting a service control point for call processing instructions in
4 response to activation of said terminating attempt trigger; and
5 wherein connecting the telephone call to a peripheral device includes:
6 operating the telephone switch to couple the detected call to the
7 peripheral device in response to an instruction received from the
8 service control point.

1 Claim 23 (original): The communications method of claim 22,
2 wherein the instruction received from the service control point is a
3 STOR message; and

4 wherein the peripheral device is coupled to said telephone switch by
5 an additional telephone switch.

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): A fax forwarding method, the method comprising:
2 for each of a plurality of fax forwarding service subscribers, creating a
3 subscriber record including:
4 at least one telephone number corresponding to a telephone
5 line on which the forwarding service subscriber may receive a fax call;
6 and
7 an E-mail address to be used to forward a fax received by
8 answering a call directed to said at least one telephone number;
9 monitoring a plurality of said telephone lines on which fax forwarding
10 service subscribers may receive fax calls; and
11 in response to receiving a ~~fax~~ call on one of said monitored lines:
12 answering said call;
13 determining if said answered call is a fax call or a non-fax call;
14 if the call is determined to be a fax call, determining, by
15 accessing the subscriber record corresponding to the telephone line on
16 which the fax call is received, an E-mail address to be used for
17 forwarding a fax received on said telephone line; and
18 forwarding by E-mail, using the determined E-mail address, a
19 fax received on said telephone line.

1 Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein monitoring a plurality of said
2 telephone lines on which fax forwarding service subscribers may receive fax calls
3 includes:
4 setting an AIN terminating attempt trigger on each of said plurality of
5 telephone lines.

1 Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 24, further comprising, in response to
2 receiving a fax call on one of said monitored lines, performing the additional steps of:
3 determining, by accessing the subscriber record corresponding to the
4 telephone line on which the fax call is received, a fax forwarding telephone number to
5 be used for forwarding a fax received on said telephone line; and
6 placing a call using the determined fax forwarding telephone number;
7 and
8 bridging the placed call and the received fax call thereby forwarding
9 the fax call by telephone.